

New records of birds from the Brazilian state of Roraima

by Marcos Pêrsio Dantas Santos

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Roraima is the northernmost state in Brazil, and has a total land area of 225,116 km² and a population of *c.*325,000. Of these, 200,000 (61.5%) live in Boa Vista, the state capital (Barbosa *et al.* 1997), emphasising the state's generally very low human population density. The naturalist Johan Natterer was the first person to conduct ornithological investigations in Roraima (in 1831–1832). The majority of his collections were made along the rio Branco, especially around São Joaquim fort (Pelzeln 1871). Subsequently, in 1962 Olivério Pinto conducted an expedition to Roraima, traversing the rio Mucajá, and presented the first avian catalogue for Roraima, summarising bird collections made in the state (Pinto 1966). In recent decades, ornithological effort has been concentrated around Maracá Ecological



Figure 1. Map showing localities in the state of Roraima mentioned in the text.

Station (Moskovits *et al.* 1985, Silva & Oren 1990) and the capital Boa Vista (Borges 1994). Stotz (1997) compiled the most recent checklist for Roraima, which included a total of 492 species, whilst more recently, Grosset & Minns (2002) published new data on *Poecilurus kollari* and Santos (2003) distributional information for *Cercomacra carbonaria*. I initiated research concerning birds in Roraima in January 2002. During this study I have made six visits to the state, each lasting 2–4 months and surveying seasonally flooded forest bordering the lower rio Branco, regions of higher land forest to the south and savannas to the north, close to the border with Guyana (Fig. 1).

My research has added five bird species new to the Stotz (1997) list and increased the total number of species recorded in the state to 497. All specimens have been deposited in the ornithological collection of the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi (MPEG), in Belém, Pará, Brazil.

Species accounts

SAPPHIRE-RUMPED PARROTLET *Touit purpurata*

On 10 August 2002, a male (MPEG 56276) was collected along the road leading to Viruá National Park headquarters (01°29'N, 61°00'W). The species is widespread through the Guianas, northern Brazil, south-west Colombia and eastern Ecuador (Forshaw & Cooper 1973), with the geographically closest records coming from Jaú National Park (Borges *et al.* 2001) and areas north of Manaus (Cohn-Haft *et al.* 1997), both in Amazonas state. However, it had not previously been mentioned for Roraima. In Viruá National Park, it proved to be relatively common, with groups of up to 25 individuals being observed.

CHESTNUT-BELTED GNATEATER *Conopophaga aurita*

On 2 February 2003, a male (MPEG 56879) was collected in the municipal district of São João da Baliza, on highway 29 (00°59'N, 59°52'W), in an area of high-ground forest (*terra firme*). Whilst this species is the most widespread of the genus (Sick 1997), it had not previously been recorded in Roraima.

ZIMMER'S WOODCREEPER *Xiphorhynchus kienerii*

Between 14 and 17 August 2002, five (MPEG 56325–56329) were collected on Ilha da Aliança (01°28'N, 61°15'W), in the rio Branco adjacent to Viruá National Park. This species has been found to occur exclusively in seasonally flooded forest (del Hoyo *et al.* 2003), and is common in such habitat on the Anavilhanas archipelago in the rio Negro (A. Whittaker pers. obs.) and at the mouth of the rio Jaú (Borges *et al.* 2001). Given that this species exclusively occupies flooded forests and that there are no such forests north of Caracaraí (01°50'N, 61°08'W), this region may represent the northernmost limit for the species. For comments on this species' taxonomy see Aleixo & Whitney (2002).

ASH-BREASTED ANTBIRD *Myrmoborus lugubris*

Between 13 and 14 August 2002, four (MPEG 56403–56406) were collected on Ilha da Aliança (01°28'N, 61°15'W), and three additional individuals (MPEG 56401, 56402, 56828) on Ilha de Inajatuba (01°25'N, 61°16'W), in the lower rio Branco adjacent to Viruá National Park. The species occupies flooded forests along the rio Napo in Ecuador, north-east Peru, south-east Colombia, in Brazil, along the rio Amazonas to the confluence with the lower rio Tocantins. Its presence in Roraima considerably expands the species' known range from the closest-known localities of the archipelagos of Mariuá and Anavilhanas, on the rio Negro (A. Whittaker pers. comm.).

BLACKISH-GREY ANTSHRIKE *Thamnophilus nigrocinereus*

Between 13 and 15 August 2002, five (MPEG 56351–56825) were collected on Ilha da Aliança (01°28'N, 61°15'W) and it is common on seasonally flooded islands in the lower rio Branco. The species is typically found in Brazil along the rios Negro and Amazon in areas of flooded forest (*várzea*), in forests along small streams and in *igapó* (black-water) flooded forests (Sick 1997).

BLACK-CHESTED TYRANT *Taenotriccus andrei*

On 24 January 2003 one (MPEG 56881) was collected at Fazenda Kenedy (02°40'N, 61°12'W), along the right bank of the rio Mucajaí. Only one bird was found, in a narrow band of degraded forest adjacent to pasture. Traylor (1979) already indicated the species' presence in the state, based on specimens taken along the rio Padauri, but as noted by Paynter & Traylor (1991) this locality belongs to the state of Amazonas, making my record the first for the species in Roraima. This species is very poorly known and is only sparsely distributed in the Brazilian Amazon (where it is principally known from the Tapajós, Itaituba, Altamira and lower Xingu rivers, the forests around Belém and in northern Maranhão), as well as in southern Venezuela and probably Surinam (Ridgely & Tudor 1994).

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A record of Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus* from Ecuador

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On 2 February 2002, during field work on the eastern slope of the Cordillera de Cutucú in Morona-Santiago Province, south-east Ecuador, along a small tributary of the río Morona, near Unnsuantz (02°33'S, 77°54'W, elevation 525 m), I collected a specimen of Pale-legged Hornero *Furnarius leucopus*. The specimen is now housed in the Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Quito (MECN 7647).

There is no published specimen record of the species from Ecuador and north of the río Marañón in Peru, but J. V. Remsen, Louisiana State University, Museum of